

Message Text

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TO CINCPACREP GUAM IMMEDIATE

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FOR MATTHEW NIMETZ, COUNSELOR, DEPT OF STAATE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 10624 ACTION STATE INFO LENINGRAD
BERLIN USBERLIN BELGRADE BUCHAREST BONN BUDAPEST LONDON PRAGUE
MUNICH SOFIA WARSAW GENEVVA DIA USNATO USUN JULY 23.

QUOTELIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 10624

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCEV GENEVA ALSO USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: FIRST SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S CHARLESTON
ADDRESS

SUMMARY: PRAVDA DULY 23 CARRIES FIRST REPORTAGE IN
SOVIET PRESS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CHARLESTON, S.C. SPEECH.
THE JULY 22 TASS-WASHINGTON PIECE IS LOW-KEY, SELECTIVELY
FACTUAL, MEASURED, AND WITHOUT MAJOR COMMENT. DESPITE
SOME CARPING, THE INITIAL COVERAGE LEAVES SOVIET
OPTIONS OPEN REGARDING OVERALL RESPONSE, AND MEDIA
CAUTION DOUBTLESS REFLECTS RECOGNITION THAT PRESIDENT'S
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SPEECH REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY TOP LEADERSHIP
BEFORE DEFINITIVE STANCE IS TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 23 PRAVDA PRINTS ONLY A JULY 22 TASS-WASHINGTON
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 21 SPEECH ON SOVIET-
AMERICAN RELATIONS (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL FBIS
TEXT). THE FIRST HALF OF THE PIECE IS A RESUME OF SOME OF

THE MAIN POINTS IN THE SPEECH WITHOUT ANY COMMENT. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE PRESIDENT'S PASSAGES ON THE ERROR OF BASING LONG-RANGE POLICIES ON THE MOOD OF THE MOMENT; THE PROFOUND DIFFERENCES IN THE BELIEFS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS; THE REAL COMPETITION WHICH EXISTS; AND THE LACK OF A BASIS FOR COMPLETE MUTUAL TRUST THUS FORCING US TO REACH AGREEMENTS ANCHORED IN ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST SUPPLEMENTED BY THE YEARNING FOR PEACE. TASS REPLAYS THE BREZHNEV QUOTE THAT DETENTE WILL SUCCEED AND THAT MANKIND WILL GO INTO THE 21ST CENTURY IN PEACE.

2. IN TREATING SPECIFIC ISSUES IN THE SECOND PART OF THE TASS ARTICLE, THERE IS SOME NEGATIVE COMMENT. MOST INTERESTINGLY THE PRESIDENT'S REAFFIRMATION OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION IS MENTIONED BRIEFLY WITH NO COMMENT OFFERED. HOWEVER, AFTER NOTING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SALT TASS ADDS THAT THE "FACTS DEMONSTRATE" THAT THE U.S. IS TRYING FOR UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND NOT EQUALITY AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. ALSO, WHILE MENTIONING CARTER'S REMARKS ON THE DESIRE FOR SALT, CW, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND ARMS TRANSFERS AGREEMENT, TASS CLAIMS THE PRESIDENT "AVOIDED" THE CRUISE MISSILE, NEUTRON BOMB, AND "OTHER NEW SYSTEMS" OF MASS DESTRUCTION WHICH COMPLICATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S GOALS. TASS'S FINAL LINE IS THE COMMENT THAT "AS IS KNOWN" THE IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-MAERICAN RELATIONS" DEPENDS IN MANY WAYS ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTION IN WHICH U.S. POLICY DEVELOPS FURTHER."

3. COMMENT: THE TASS PIECE IS LOW-KEY, SELECTIVELY FACTUAL AND CONTAINS LITTLE COMMENTARY OF NOTE. IT IS NOTABLE THAT COMMENTARY DID NOT HIGHLIGHT PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CONDEMNATION. IN GENERAL THE DELAY IN PUBLISHING EVEN THIS RELATIVELY BLAND RESPONSE AND THE LACK OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL COMMENTARY THUS FAR INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BEING DELIBERATE IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS. THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO MANY OF THEIR RECENT COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICIES WHICH HAVE QUICKLY AND STRIDENTLY ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT.

4. PART OF THE DELAY MAY BE EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT BREZHNEV IS VACATIONING IN THE CRIMEA AND THAT ANY MAJOR MEDIA RESPONSE REQUIRES HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, DELAY IS PROBABLY RESULT OF SOVIET RECOGNITION THAT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS A MAJOR MOVE WHICH MUST BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE IS FORMULATED. INITIAL COVERAGE PRESERVES THE OPTION TO PLAY IT EITHER WAY, BUT BY

AVOIDING STRIDENCY OF RECENT PRESS COMMENTARY IT PAVES
WAY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SPEECH AS OLIVE BRANCH IF THIS
SHOULD BE ULTIMATE DECISION. TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, UR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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